

## Message Text

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ACTION PER-05

INFO OCT-01 SIG-03 MMO-01 ISO-00 /010 W

-----078435 111958Z /66

P 111825Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6067

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FOR M/DG, S/IG, ARA

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: AMGT, APER

SUBJECT: EMBASSY REQUIREMENTS FOR CANAL TREATY IMPLEMENTATION

REF: A.PANAMA 1274 B. STATE 57801

1. I HAVE REVIEWED THOROUGHLY WITH THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
INSPECTORS MY EARLIER RECOMMENDATIONS (REF A) FOR STAFF  
AUGMENTATION AND MISSION ORGANIZATION FOR TREATY IMPLEMENTATION.  
WE AGREE THAT WE MUST UNDERTAKE URGENTLY THE DESIGNATION AND  
ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL WHILE LEAVING TO MY SUCCESSOR  
FLEXIBILITY TO ORGANIZE THE MISSION AS HE PREFERENCES.  
WITH THIS IN MIND, THE INSPECTORS AND I HAVE DEVELOPED THE  
FOLLOWING SOMEWHAT MODIFIED CONCEPT FOR OUR FUTURE STRUCTURE.  
THIS MESSAGE ALSO REPLIES TO QUESTIONS POSED BY PER  
IN REF B.

2. I PROPOSE TO RETAIN THE IDEA OF A TASK FORCE SPECIFICALLY  
CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMPLEX TASKS  
OF IMPLEMENTATION AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH US. MILITARY.  
CANAL COMMISSION AND OTHER AGENCIES ON THE Isthmus AS  
WELL AS PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, I NOW PLAN TO  
PLACE THIS UNIT UNDER THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR WHO WILL HAVE  
PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE FUNCTIONS. THE POLITICAL  
SECTION WILL HAVE TO BE AUGMENTED BY THE SAME  
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THREE SPECIALISTS DESCRIBED IN PARAS 2, 3, 4 OF REF A  
(TREATY IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER, POL/MIL OFFICER AND  
LEGAL ADVISOR). ALL BUT ESPECIALLY THE FIRST TWO, SHOULD  
SHOULD BE LANGUAGE-QUALIFIED. THE SECTION WILL ALSO  
REQUIRE THE ASSIGNMENT OF A LABOR ATTACHE, WHOSE DUTIES  
WILL BE PRIMARILY RELATED TO TREATY IMPLEMENTATION  
MATTERS ARISING FROM LABOR AFFAIRS IN THE FORMER

CANAL ZONE. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE AND SO RECOMMEND THAT POSITION OF POLITICAL COUNSELOR SOULD BE UPGRADED FROM FSO-3 TO FSO-2.

3. SINCE I NO LONGER ENVISAGE A COMBINED POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECTION, I HEREBY REINSTITUTE MY REQUEST FOR AN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR WHO SHOULD BE AN EXPERIENCED FSO-2 OR FSO-3, WHO IS LANGUAGE-QUALIFIED. THE POSITION IS NOW VACANT AND REQUIRES FILLING AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. I CONCUR WITH THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION THAT THE INCUMBANT FSO-3 COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR DELAY HIS DEPARTURE TO PERMIN AN OVERLAP WITH THE NEW E/C COUNSELOR. AN EXPERIENCED LANGUAGE-QUALIFIED FSO-R COMMERCIAL OFFICER SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO ARRIVE ABOUT THE TIME OF THE COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR'S DEPARTURE. I ALSO CONCUR WITH THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION THAT A SEIOR FSO-6 OR A NEW FSO-5, WHO HAS ALREADY CLEARED THE CAREER CANDIDATE PREOCESSE AND HAS TENURE, BE ASSIGNED PERMENENTLY AS A FULL TIME ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER, REMOVING THE POSITION FROM THE JUNIOR OFFICER ROTATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.

4. I REITERATE MY BASIC CONCERN THAT THE EMBASSY BE ADEQUATELY STAFFED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE PLANNING PHASE (WHICH HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALREADY STARTED) AND IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD. IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME OF THE NEW POSITIONS REQUESTED (D.G.,LEGAL ADVISER) WILL BE TEMPORARY ONES AND THAT AS THE TRANSITION PERIOD CONTEMPLATED IN THE TREATY COMES TO AN END, WE CAN RETURN TO A SMALLER STAFF COMMENSURATE WITH A MORE NORMAL SITUATION.  
JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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